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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 February 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. It concerns the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq in the unlawful no-flight zones and the fact that on 9 February 2000 United States and British aircraft bombed many civilian and services-related installations in southern and northern Iraq, killing a number of innocent citizens and causing serious damage to civilian installations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 14 February 2000 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that on 9 February 2000 the United States of America and the United Kingdom committed another brutal crime in southern Iraq further to the series of heinous crimes these two States have been committing on a daily basis against the Republic of Iraq and its security and integrity. The particulars of this cowardly act are set forth hereunder.

From 1355 hours on 9 February 2000, 16 formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 50 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory and 26 from Kuwaiti territory, with the support of an AWACS early-warning aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew several of Iraq's southern governorates, namely Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Qadisiyah, Muthanna, Najaf and Wasit. They bombed a number of civilian and services-related installations, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding eight others and causing serious material damage.

From 1130 hours on the same day, eight formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 16 missions from Turkish airspace with the support of an AWACS aircraft. They overflew the Ninawa and Dohuk Governorates in northern Iraq and bombed civilian and services-related installations in Ninawa Governorate, causing material damage.

We condemn these repeated acts of criminal aggression against our country, and we call upon the Security Council to censure them and to intervene with the governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom with a view to inducing them to suspend the acts of aggression in which they are engaging against Iraq, to bring them to an end and to desist from any future repetition. The Government of the Republic of Iraq will hold all the States involved fully responsible for these acts of aggression and for the material and moral damage they have caused to the country, both those whose aircraft carry out these criminal acts and those in whose territory the aircraft are based, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey.

The military aggression of these two States, committed on the pretext of defending the measures taken to protect the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq being maintained by them unrightfully and without any legal basis, is a desperate attempt to justify their continued hostility to Iraq. We also affirm in this connection the legally established right of Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for all the material and moral damage sustained by the country as a result of actions that are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs